

## TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX  
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Quarter ending: December 31, 2019

ISSUE/description: 3. GUN VIOLENCE. Our community experienced a high-profile shooting incident in December. The public and many politicians are calling for Gun Control. Government regulations providing personal safety protection.

### How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	11/25/19	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*

\* A renewed effort to clamp down on youth crime and violence continues to emerge in our community. The latest initiative took place today at a town hall meeting in Downtown Pensacola ... a heart to heart conversation among community members laced with a sense of urgency. The news lately in Escambia County has been grim. A day ago, police were called to a fatal stabbing at Big Lagoon State Park. Last week had back to back shootings, one involving the death of a 15-year-old. The violent trend will continue as long as people don't get involved. Those attending today's youth gangs and violence prevention town hall at a church in downtown Pensacola were looking for an actionable plan. Omar Neal, a former police officer and former mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama, works with officers across the U.S on community policing. "What I want people to begin to do is to think about what we can do to change things and how can they personally get involved." That was Neal's message to today's meeting. He said this is just the beginning of a dialogue that must happen for change to take place.

2. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/06/19	09:00PM/3 minutes	News	**
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\*\* Four people are dead, including the suspect, after an active shooting incident at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola early this morning. The Escambia County Sheriff's Office (ECSO) received a report of an active shooter at NAS Pensacola at 6:51 a.m. When deputies arrived on scene, they shot and killed the suspect. Two victims were also pronounced dead at the base. A fourth victim was taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment and later passed away. Seven others injured were taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment. West Florida Hospital says they also treated one patient. Sheriff David Morgan told Channel 3 News that the suspect used a handgun in the attack and two deputies were also shot. They were taken to Baptist Hospital for treatment, and one has been released. Sheriff Morgan said the other deputy suffered non-life-threatening injuries. NAS Pensacola says the names of the victims won't be released until 24 hours after the next of kin has been notified. The shooter has been identified as Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, a Saudi aviation student. Investigators are working to determine if the shooting is terror-related. The Pentagon says he started his training at NAS Pensacola in August 2017 and was scheduled to finish in August 2020. Republican leaders are scrutinizing the U.S. Military's training programs for foreign nationals. Governor Ron DeSantis said the foreign national was in the employ of a foreign service, and the government of Saudi Arabia needs to make things better for the victims. Six other Saudi nationals were detained for questioning near the scene of the shooting, including three who were seen filming the entire incident. According to Captain Tim Kinsella of NAS Pensacola, the shooter was training at the base. Capt. Kinsella says hundreds of people from across the world come to cross-train at NAS Pensacola and the base has always had international students; every student is vetted by the DOD. The FBI is heading the investigation, along with ATF and NCIS. Capt. Kinsella says the base will stay on lockdown until further notice. Governor Ron DeSantis arrived at Pensacola around noon. He said mental health coordinators have been sent to speak with witnesses and the victims' families. DeSantis, President Donald Trump, and Rep. Matt Gaetz all took to social media to address the mass shooting. This is the second shooting that occurred on a Navy base in the last week.

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3. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/09/19	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	***

\*\*\* Monday morning was Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan's first briefing with the lead investigators since the deadly shooting at NAS Pensacola on Friday. Sheriff Morgan called the meeting productive and says he's now been invited to attend daily FBI briefings. He says his own deputies transported at least seven people to the hospital. "The on-scene supervisor made the decision that we will transport to the hospital while rendering whatever on-scene aid we can to them to make sure they get the appropriate medical care as soon as possible," Sheriff Morgan explained. With traffic to the base diverted, deputies were concerned that paramedics wouldn't be able to arrive fast enough. Sheriff Morgan says several deputies drove victims off-base and transferred them to ambulances on their way. He added that both of his deputies injured in the shooting will be interviewed by FBI investigators. Right now, five of the eight injured have been released from the hospital. NAS Pensacola says the remaining three patients are in stable condition.

4. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/10/19	09:00PM/1.5 minutes	News	****
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\*\*\*\* Florida Senator Rick Scott is continuing to demand answers linked to a United States foreigner training program following the NAS Pensacola shooting. Channel 3 News obtained an interview with Sen. Scott on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. He arrived in the city of Pensacola hours after the shooting, calling for a suspension of the program and tighter security. He also visited NAS Pensacola, OneBlood and the hospital, hearing stories of heroism firsthand. Channel 3 News has heard stories of members from the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Navy using their training to fight back, rescue the wounded and barricade themselves in areas for safety. Sen. Scott says he spoke with the Ambassador to the U.S. from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Scott said the kingdom has committed to cooperate fully with the United States in investigating Friday's attack. "There's wonderful people here in this country from all over the world, Florida is a melting pot, but there's also radical Islam," Sen. Scott said. "We've got to deal with radical Islam. They hate us," he added. He is demanding the Saudi government fully cooperate and not allow any of the students to return until they have worked with the FBI. The Senator adds if anybody's done anything wrong the Saudi government must hold them accountable.

5. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/10/19	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*****
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\*\*\*\*\* The Navy has ordered a temporary grounding for Saudi Arabian aviation students training at multiple Florida bases, following the deadly mass shooting at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. The Navy is describing this as a 'safety stand-down and operational pause.' Training was suspended over the weekend for all personnel. Some training commands aboard NAS Pensacola have resumed training, including those with International Military Students. Classroom training is expected to resume this week for those students. On Sunday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said they are working under the presumption that the shooting was an act of terrorism. FBI added that all international students are accounted for and that Saudi students have been cooperating with their investigations. On Tuesday, the Pentagon ordered a review of the vetting procedures for international students who participate in training on U.S. military installations. Military Times says the Pentagon demanded the process be strengthened. Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist signed a memo that suspends flight and other operational training for all Saudi Arabian students in U.S. military programs.

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6. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/11/19	09:00PM/2.1 minutes	News	*****
***** Since the deadly shooting, there's been talk and calls to action to better secure our military and prevent tragedies like this one from happening again. A group of U.S. Navy instructor pilots at NAS Pensacola reportedly asked Navy officials if they could arm themselves following the shooting. NAS Pensacola Public Information Officer Jason Bortz says they have their own Naval security force charged with keeping the base and those inside safe. He could not go into detail about their training or how many security personnel work each shift, but he was quick to ensure their force is not contracted out. He says this group is comprised of active-duty sailors and individuals from the department of Naval citizens. He says these are the only armed personnel on the base, all other firearms are banned. People in the Pensacola community believe if more people were armed, the shooter wouldn't have been able to kill three Navy sailors. Bortz says their Naval security force mans the gates into and out of the base and they have roving patrol as well. As for security getting onto the base, Bortz says they are still only allowing those with a Department of Defense issued identification. They have not confirmed a date on when they are opening the base for civilians without DoD IDs.				
7. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/13/19	09:00PM/1.7 minutes	News	*****
***** It's been a long week for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office. Three deputies were shot in seven days, two at NAS Pensacola during the mass shooting, and the other responding to a call on Limerick Lane on Wednesday. Tonight Channel 3 has confirmed with ECSO that all three deputies are at home recovering from their injuries. While this week has been tough, Sheriff Morgan says he's thankful that his deputies' injuries weren't worse. "We didn't lose anybody," Morgan said. "This week was tragic, but we didn't suffer a death. Right now we've got three grieving families from those sailors whose lives have been changed. We can't repair that." Sheriff Morgan tells us counseling services have been available for all deputies this week. Over the weekend, Sheriff Morgan told us he was frustrated with the FBI because he hadn't received a briefing in days. After that reporting, Sheriff Morgan was briefed by lead FBI Agents on Monday. He says he's been briefed 3 times this week. "I can tell you that the FBI is absolutely working this case," Morgan said. "They are doing exactly what we'd expect and want them to be doing." He says he plans to continue attending FBI briefings as the investigation continues.				
8. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/17/19	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*****
***** Channel 3 News is getting new information about how the NAS Pensacola shooter was able to get a hunting license in Florida without going through a safety training course. We received a copy of his license and saw the box for the safety course was not checked. Channel 3 asked the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) how that was possible. They tell us the course was not required based on a law allowing an individual to hunt if they agree to do so while supervised by a qualified adult who is 21 years or older. The Navy says 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, of the Royal Saudi Air Force, shot and killed three sailors at the base on December 6th.				

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9. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/17/19	09:00PM/1.2 minutes	News	*****

\*\*\*\*\* How did a Saudi flight student purchase a gun through a federal loophole and get it on a U.S. military base? Our 3 Investigates team and ABC News first broke the news on how and where the gun was purchased. The investigation also uncovered the shooter fired more than 180 rounds for about 15 minutes inside a building at NAS Pensacola, before being shot and killed. Those trapped inside say they used their military training to fight back. "One of them ran up to him and tried to stop the guy, and lost his life doing it, but he slowed him down," U.S. Sen. Rick Scott said. Sen. Scott is now demanding transparency from the FBI investigation. He says he wants to know exactly what happened, so everyone can understand what changes do need to be made. The Florida senator is also questioning if training should be held in Saudi Arabia instead. Reports indicate U.S. Navy pilots are asking that military officers be allowed to arm themselves on U.S. military bases. "They should have access to a weapon, how can you expect them to defend themselves," Scott said. The senator says it defies logic - our men and women operate multi-million dollar pieces of equipment and are trusted to keep our country safe, but they are not allowed to carry weapons. He added he will work with key government agencies like the Armed Services Committees and the Department of Defense and asking the tough questions "What went wrong? How do we change it so this doesn't happen again? How do we make sure everyone understands the changes being made?" Sen. Scott asked. The senator says streamlining communication between military law enforcement and local law enforcement is critical.

10. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/19/19	09:00PM/2.5 minutes	News	*10
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\*10 Initially, people, including lawmakers, were confused about how a foreign national could get his hands on a firearm. This comes in the wake of the deadly attack on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola carried out by a Saudi Arabian student. "I don't understand how somebody that comes over here from another country and in their military and is supposed to simply be here training and how they have access to a gun," said Florida Senator Rick Scott. It was less than a week after the shooting that the FBI confirmed it was purchased legally. The shooter was issued a Florida hunting license, confirmed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. It's remained a topic of discussion, but public statements on that loophole in the political sphere have stayed mostly non-existent among the talk of foreign national vetting and arming servicemen and women on base. Senator Marco Rubio's spokesperson sent Channel 3 a statement when asked what he thinks about the loophole and if he's working towards a solution. "Senator Rubio shares the concerns expressed by law enforcement and will continue working with his colleagues on appropriate solutions to a number of issues exposed by the tragedy as NAS Pensacola," the spokesperson said. Channel 3 also reached out to Senator Rick Scott who was one of the first to call for tougher foreign national vetting. His press secretary did not return our requests for a statement. Representative Matt Gaetz, who's also been very vocal following the shooting, did not send a statement regarding the loophole, but his team says it is on his radar. However, we did get a hold of a letter he sent Thursday to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. In the letter, he asks if the Department of Defense has halted Saudi students from training on military installations, if the Saudis have committed to their vetting process, and who has access to the Saudi students during the investigation. Channel 3 reached out to the FWC asking if there has been a change in protocol when issuing hunting licenses; they did not respond.

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11. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/20/19	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*11
*11 The Director of the Naval Aviation Museum says Navy leadership is working to reopen Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola to the public. Director Sterling Gilliam tells us while no official date has been set for when NAS Pensacola will again welcome civilians, the day could be soon. "It's always been more about the ongoing FBI investigation than it has been about heightened security," Gilliam said. The FBI tells us their investigators are still working to understand the motive for the attack that killed three sailors. A memorial service, closed to the media, was held Thursday at the museum to honor the fallen, giving their classmates the chance to say goodbye. "Almost 1,400 people were in attendance in our Blue Angel Atrium yesterday, including the families of the three victims." Gilliam says he expects museum events to be back open to the public early in the new year. Several Escambia and Santa Rosa County schools have field trips scheduled in 2020. "The 75th anniversary of the end of World War II occurs next year so we look forward to celebrating that." The museum also plans to honor the fallen sailors with a memorial onsite. "Whether you are currently in the Navy or you flew years ago, this museum is a rallying point," Gilliam said. "We are very honored to serve as a venue where folks can celebrate naval aviation and honor the lives tragically lost."				
12. Channel 3 News at 9PM on WFGX	12/27/19	09:00PM/2 minutes	News	*12
*12 Florida lawmakers have filed a bill aiming to close the loophole that allowed a Saudi Arabian student at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola to buy a gun used in the mass shooting earlier this month. The bill is called the 'Foreign National Firearms Background Check Enhancement Act'. Legislators hope it can help prevent another tragedy like the NAS Pensacola shooting. The FBI identified the shooter as a Saudi Arabian national student Mohammed Alshamrani. The investigation revealed that Alshamrani was able to legally buy the handgun used in the shooting through a federal loophole. That exception allows foreign nationals to buy guns if they have a valid state hunting license. It's a loophole that Florida lawmakers want to close. U.S. Representative Charlie Crist introduced the bill that would require foreign nationals to go through a tougher vetting process. The bill states foreign nationals would have to petition the attorney general directly to have the right to buy a gun and that person would have to also receive a waiver from the Attorney General certifying that the recipient meets the same background check requirements as US citizens. This proposed legislation comes after the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission announced they were going to review and amend state regulations regarding foreign nationals obtaining hunting licenses. A companion bill needs to be filed in the Senate before it's sent over to the governor's desk for his signature.				