



# PENTAGON FORCE PROTECTION AGENCY



## Office of Public Affairs News Transcript

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**No. 15-10**

**October 19, 2010**

Presenter: Steven E. Calvery

Location: PFPA Director's Conference Room, 1135-1150

### **Media Availability with PFPA Director Regarding Shots Fired at Pentagon**

Mr. Calvery – Good Morning, I'm going to read a short statement and then I'll take questions. Today at approximately 4:55 a.m., five to seven gun shots were reported by Pentagon Police Officers in the vicinity of the Pentagon South Parking Lot. Pentagon Police immediately shut down the reservation and closed all access to South Parking as well as all entrances to the Pentagon itself. Pentagon Police, Virginia State Police, and Arlington County Police conducted sweeps of the area with no initial findings. The reservation was declared safe and reopened at 5:40 a.m.. At 6:20 a.m. this morning, an interior search of the building conducted by officers and investigators discovered two exterior windows that had been impacted by gun shots. As a result this morning, Virginia State Police shut down portions of 395 (Interstate 395) and the HOV lanes. I think that's ongoing as we speak. It's being done in a phased approach. Looking for any potential evidence. The investigation continues. We are working jointly with Arlington County and the Joint Terrorism Task Force. I'll take any questions now.

Q. – Two bullets struck two different windows?

Mr. Calvery – Correct. As we know right now the information is still preliminary, a window on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and a window on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor were hit by gun fire. We believe that there may have been other bullet strikes on the building as well. But we are in the process right now of doing that crime scene search.

Q. – What offices were those, sir?

Mr. Calvery – Currently those offices are unoccupied. They are in the process of being renovated, so no employees were working there.

Q. – Were the slugs recovered?

Mr. Calvery – They are in the process of being recovered.

Q. – Did windows shatter, or did the bullet enter the building, or did it get stopped by the window?

Mr. Calvery – The bullets did not penetrate the windows.

Q. – So they are embedded in the windows?

Mr. Calvery – Correct

Q. – What can you tell us about a possible connection to the shooting at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico over the weekend?

Mr. Calvery – We are aware of that incident. We at this point we have no information that they are connected.

Q. – But you're looking into the possibility that they are connected?

Mr. Calvery – We are. The FBI is doing that part of the investigation.

Q. – What kind of weapon was used?

Mr. Calvery – We don't know, that is still part of the ongoing investigation.

Q. – Any suspects?

Mr. Calvery – Not at this time.

Q. – Side of the building that faces the highway?

Mr. Calvery – Correct, the south side of the building.

Q. – The south side facing the highway. Which highway?

Mr. Calvery – 395

Q. – Is that an area that would be under surveillance?

Mr. Calvery – Pardon me.

Q. – Is that an area that would be under video surveillance that could be viewed?

Mr. Calvery – It is, and we are reviewing those video tapes from our cameras as well working with our partners in Crystal City, U.S. Marshals, DEA, TSA have buildings there as well with surveillance.

Q. – Would surveillance cameras also surveil that section of 395?

Mr. Calvery – We are not sure what their cameras are focused on. That's why we are in the process of talking to them right now. We are reviewing our own cameras. We don't normally have cameras specifically on that area, but we are reviewing all of our tapes just to make sure.

Q. – Is there somewhere else besides 395 that the shots could have come from?

Mr. Calvery – It's possible. We are looking at all the possibilities right now. The FBI is assisting us with the ballistics and hopefully we'll have more information on that later on.

Q. – How did you hear of it? Did somebody report shots fired? Could we go through that again? Or did somebody actually hear the shots?

Mr. Calvery – Our officers on post in the area of South Parking heard the shots and reported those to our Command Center. That's how we were aware of the event.

Q. – Did these officers see any suspicious vehicles or suspicious people?

Mr. Calvery – They did not.

Q. – you don't have any description of any kind?

Mr. Calvery – We do not. Not at this time.

Q. – Any muzzle flashes or anything like that, given that it was nighttime then?

Mr. Calvery – Not that we are aware of.

Q. – Any steps are being taken to ensure the safety of employees who are coming into the building right now, more than usual?

Mr. Calvery – I personally think that our security is pretty robust at normal times. Right now there is a lot of police presence out there, in that area, on the south side as well as up on 395 looking at the crime scene and doing investigations. So we have a very high profile out there right now. We are still evaluating whether or not we need to do anything

additional to ensure security of the Pentagon. Right now, we think our protective measures are adequate.

Q. – Were there any specific known threats aimed at the Pentagon, Pentagon personnel, in this region that Pentagon Police have been aware of?

Mr. Calvery – Probably not.

Q. – What was the impact on the windows? What did they look like?

Mr. Calvery – They are shattered, but were not penetrated.

Q. – These are the Mylar windows?

Mr. Calvery – I can't discuss that.

Q. – Where were the bullets found?

Mr. Calvery – We have recovered, well we have discovered two bullet fragments in each of the windows, one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and one on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. There may be others, but that's still ongoing.

Q. – Just based on the quick visual of the bullets, what caliber?

Mr. Calvery – I'm not a ballistics expert. I was up in the area looking at those fragments. I don't think that we can state that right now. Hopefully we'll have more information later.

Q. – But based on the impact and what you think the range was, what does that tell you about high velocity, low velocity, automatic, so on?

Mr. Calvery – Probably think it was a rifle, but we don't know that for sure.

Q. – High velocity?

Mr. Calvery – Yes.

Q. – So when the police heard the shots, what happened then? Because it seemed like the response was a little slow. It just didn't seem like it was, you know, all alert right away. Did it take the sun coming up to notice that this had happened?

Mr. Calvery – No, I would beg to differ a little bit. I think that we did take prompt action in immediately closing down the Reservation - vehicular access as well as access to the building, pretty quickly, when the shots, the report of shots fired was verified.

Contacting the officers, what did you hear? gun shots, and then we took our actions. That happened pretty quick.

Q. – Where the gun shots fired in a succession that made you believe it was just one rifle or one weapon. I mean was it sort of like boom, boom, boom in a succession or is it, you know, multiple shots at the same time that the guards heard?

Mr. Calvery – I don't know if I can answer that. I don't think we have that level of information. We are still in the process, the investigation. We are in very early stages. We are still interviewing the officers. There were other witnesses besides the one officer that heard the gun shots. There were a couple of construction workers as well. We are interviewing all those to try to find out exactly what when down and how it went down.

Q. – Is Pentagon surveillance audio, I mean video only, or is there audio also?

Mr. Calvery – Video only.

Q. – Video only.

Q. – Sir, is there going to be any ratcheting up of security at this building or any other military facility in the area as a result of this one and the Marine Corps shooting?

Mr. Calvery – Not that I'm aware of, no.

Q. – Any other agencies involved in the investigation at this point?

Mr. Calvery – Yes, like I said in the beginning, we are working very close with Virginia State Police, who has responsibility for 395. We are working with Arlington County. We're also working very closely with the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Q. – Is that why we saw a Coast Guard helicopter over the top of 395 around the time that you reopened southbound 395?

Mr. Calvery – I think that was just a coincidence.

Q. – And FBI is handling what part of the investigation?

Mr. Calvery – The FBI is assisting us in conducting the investigation. Right now the Pentagon Force Protection Agency has the lead and FBI is providing valuable assistance to us in this investigation.

Q. – Can I double check something you said in the beginning? For 40 minutes, from 4:55 a.m. to 5:40 , it was impossible to both go in and out of this building and to go in and off the property known as the Pentagon Reservation?

Mr. Calvery – Correct, and basically what was happening was the officers were doing a sweep of South Parking up on 395, because after the initial report we really weren't sure what was happening out there and we wanted to make sure before we opened up the reservation that it was safe for people to come up.

Q. – Sir, just in the last couple of weeks the Metro entrance security has been extended and beefed up significantly. Was there anything similar done, first of all, why was that done and was there anything similar done in the south entrance, which also takes a lot of traffic?

Mr. Calvery – The changes at the Metro entrance are directly related to our After Action Review after the March 4<sup>th</sup> shooting incident here. We reviewed our security procedures out there and ascertained that we needed to make some changes. We made those changes and we think that the situation provides higher level protection to the people transiting in and out of the Pentagon every day.

Q. – There was supposed to be a rerouting of traffic around the Pentagon in the coming weeks. Do you have any update on that?

Mr. Calvery – I'm not sure I know what you're referring to.

Q. – Also, did you have any intelligence beforehand about this?

Mr. Calvery – Not regarding this specific incident. I mean, there's a lot of intelligence floating around, but we had no information about this instance.

Q. – Do you consider it as one of or kind of a dry run, testing the range?

Mr. Calvery – Like I said in the beginning, we are on the front end of this, trying to figure out exactly the circumstances of what we have here. The investigation is still continuing.

Q. – Sir, can you talk at all about how you guys moved forward with the Prince William County authorities in reference to that shooting they had yesterday, so people understand how you would work together on that?

Mr. Calvery – Well, you know, we have contacted them, I think and the FBI has contacted them as well to see if there are any links. We are working together, we don't know if the two incidents are connected and we will continue cooperating and sharing information as well.

Q. – No shell casings have been found in any of the search of 395 or our area.

Mr. Calvery – That's correct.

Q. – Do you or any of your Law Enforcement partners, are you searching roof tops or buildings that are on the other side of 395?

Mr. Calvery – We are.

Q. – These intelligence reports that you mentioned, has it resulted in an increase in vigilance or an increase of threat level for this building in the last weeks or days?

Mr. Calvery – It has not, no.

Q. – Sir, what for you would make this into anything more than maybe just a random shooting disagreement in the parking lot?

Mr. Calvery – Well right now we consider this a random event. If our investigation and others ascertain this as part of a larger incident, then we would have to evaluate it then. Right now we can only process what we have and what we have is an isolated incident so far.

Q. – Are you going to be giving us any further updates as the day goes on?

Mr. Calvery – I think we will, once we have more information to share. We can certainly do that.

Q. – Is this the first shooting on the reservation since the March 4<sup>th</sup> incident?

Mr. Calvery – It is and hopefully the last.

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