

# The Washington Post

Craig Whitlock

*September 17, 10:02 am*

## [More on Aaron Alexis's time in the Navy](#)

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Craig Whitlock

*September 17, 10:02 am*

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## Latest updates

# Washington Navy Yard shooting

Investigators are continuing to look for clues about what led a gunman to kill a dozen people and wound 14 more inside an office building at the [Washington Navy Yard](#) on Monday. The shooter, identified by the FBI as 34-year-old Navy veteran [Aaron Alexis](#) of Fort Worth, was killed in a gun battle with police. See below for the latest updates on the investigation, [the victims](#) and the situation at the Navy Yard, a secure military base just south of the U.S. Capitol and east of Nationals Park.

[Monday's live updates](#) | [Wednesday's live updates](#)

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## Related



### [\*\*Rampage at Navy Yard\*\*](#)



### [\*\*Map: Shooting at Washington Navy Yard\*\*](#)

## [\*\*Streets reopen around Navy Yard\*\*](#)

All streets and bridges that were closed in the wake of the shootings at the Navy Yard have reopened, according to the District Department of Transportation.

Maggie Fazeli Fard

*September 17, 5:54 am*

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## **[Restricted access at Navy Yard on Tuesday](#)**

Access to the Washington Navy Yard will be restricted on Tuesday to mission essential personnel only as the FBI continues its investigation, according to officials. Offsite work and telecommuting is being strongly encouraged.

Additionally, only the 9th Street gate will be open for pedestrian traffic and no vehicles will be allowed onto the base.

“The Washington Navy Yard is an active crime scene,” Naval District Washington officials said [in a Facebook post](#).

Maggie Fazeli Fard

*September 17, 6:04 am*

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## **[Nats-Braves game rescheduled](#)**

After [postponing](#) their Monday night game in the aftermath of the Navy Yard shootings, the Washington Nationals will face off against the Atlanta Braves twice on Tuesday — a makeup game at 1:05 p.m. and the regularly scheduled game at 7:05 p.m.

“All of us here in the Nationals organization were deeply saddened to learn of the tragic events that occurred this morning only a few blocks from Nationals Park,” the Nationals said in a statement. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families.”

Outfielder Bryce Harper [took to Twitter](#) to express a similar thought: “Thoughts & prayers go out to the victims and responders at the Navy Yard! It is absolute sickening that people do this! [#NavyYardShooting](#)“.

Maggie Fazeli Fard

*September 17, 6:07 am*

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## **Wreath laying at U.S. Navy Memorial at 10 a.m.**

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will lay a wreath Tuesday morning at the U.S. Navy Memorial to honor [victims of Monday's Navy Yard shooting](#).

The wreath will be placed adjacent to "The Lone Sailor," which represents "all people who have ever served, are serving now, or are yet to serve in the United States Navy," according to a news release.

The wreath laying will take place at 10 a.m. at the memorial, located at 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Maggie Fazeli Fard

*September 17, 6:09 am*

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## **Remembering the victims**

Twelve people, ranging in age from 46 to 73 years old, were killed in the shooting rampage at the Navy Yard on Monday.

Eight of the [victims](#) have been identified:

Michael Arnold, 59.

Arthur Daniels, 51.

Sylvia Frasier, 53.

Kathleen Gaarde, 62.

John Roger Johnson, 73.

Frank Kohler, 50.

Vishnu Pandit, 61.

Kenneth Bernard Proctor, 46.

*Read more about the victims [here](#).*

Maggie Fazeli Fard

September 17, 6:30 am

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### **Police: Most streets around Navy Yard reopen**

Most streets around the Navy Yard reopened to traffic Tuesday morning, but one block remains closed.

Third Street between L and M streets in Southeast Washington is closed, D.C. police said. All other streets and bridges are open.



Only 3rd Street SE between L and M streets remains closed. (Map courtesy of D.C. Police)

Maggie Fazeli Fard

September 17, 7:32 am

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### **An "eerie" morning around the Navy Yard**

On Tuesday morning the neighborhood around the Navy Yard was quiet.

On Monday morning, all the routine sounds of the morning commute — buses lumbering past, the mechanical ticking and chirping directions of the walk sign for pedestrians to cross M Street SE, the clanging from the big construction project nearby — were drowned out. Sirens wailed, police cars sped past, helicopters thundered overhead.

Even many blocks north on Capitol Hill Monday morning, commuters could sense early that something awful had happened, as cars edged over to let shrieking ambulances through.

But on Tuesday, it was quiet. No helicopters circling, circling. No sirens. M Street was open again, but with only a few employees going to work in the area, neighbors like Marianne Lawrence, who works at a housing nonprofit, marveled at the stillness. Usually the street is busy with cars and the streets packed with commuters rushing to work. But she was out walking her Australian shepherd, Alice, glad to see a construction crew getting back to work, someone clearing trash, someone jogging, a couple of people getting eggs at the Sizzling Express.

“It was eerie,” she said. “When they say ‘shelter in place,’ I didn’t know what that meant. Now I do.”

The crosswalk signal beeped, and she headed across M street, taking Alice for a quiet walk along the river.

— *Susan Svrluga*

Susan Svrluga

*September 17, 8:04 am*

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### **'We need to do the work of the Navy'**

Commander Andrew House, 46, Navy JAG, of Dunkirk, Md., was walking along M street in his tan uniform in the early morning sunshine Tuesday, heading back to work at the Navy Yard.

“I’m kind of anxious to go back,” he said. “It was pretty tough and tense yesterday, especially not knowing how many gunmen there were or where, and I think one of the important things to do is go back and do the work of the Navy — not let one person stop us from doing that. We need to do the work of the Navy.”

He paused, struggling for words for a moment as he thought about the families who had lost someone. “It was a pretty long night thinking about those families,” he said finally, shaking his head.

House was in building 33 and could see and hear nothing but helicopters overhead. As they sheltered there, some of them were escorted by police to safer locations. House had warm praise for local and federal law enforcement for taking charge of the situation, keeping people calm, and keeping them as safe as they could.

The Metro felt empty this morning, and the sidewalks on M Street, usually full of DOT and Navy personnel, were wide open and quiet. “It’s surreal,” House said, looking around.

“If you say one thing,” he said, “say our hopes and prayers are with the families. That’s the most important thing. If there’s anything we can do for them, we’ll do it.”

Then he turned, and walked to work at the Navy Yard.

— *Susan Svrluga*

Susan Svrluga

*September 17, 8:37 am*

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### [Signs of normalcy slowly returning](#)



People seek shelter outside the closed Navy Yard Starbucks on Monday after the shooting. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)

One sign of life getting slowly back to normal: The Starbucks on M Street near the Navy Yard had been shut down after the shooting Monday morning and, because of a small roof over the door, served as a shelter from the cold driving rain for a crowd of people, Navy commanders and waitresses from a nearby Thai restaurant and transportation analysts and construction workers all huddled together, frightened and seeking news.

At 8:40 a.m. Tuesday morning, the sun was back, workers were barking orders for tall skim macchiatos, and 38 people were standing in line for coffee.

— *Susan Svrluga*

Susan Svrluga

September 17, 8:54 am

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## What we still don't know



In the aftermath of Monday's shooting at the Navy Yard, there's still much we don't know about the shooting, the victims and the suspect.

### **The shooting:**

There are still many key details that remain unclear. We know that the shooting began at 8:15 a.m. in Building 197. Investigators said the gunman shot a security guard at the building and took the guard's handgun. At least [one witness](#) says they saw the gunman shooting at people in the first-floor cafeteria from a fourth-floor overlook. But we don't know more about where else the suspect may have opened fire. Officials say active shooter teams engaged the suspect several times before at least two officers fatally wounded him, but we don't know details on these firefights. D.C. Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier declined to say how many shots were fired.

### **The victims:**

At least 12 people are dead (not including the shooter) and several others were wounded on Monday. We know the names of eight of the victims killed Monday. Police have not publicly released the identities of the remaining victims, nor have they identified all of the people wounded. We have information about the eight victims confirmed so far [here](#), and we will update that page as we get more information.

### **The suspect:**



Details on [Aaron Alexis](#), named by authorities as the suspected shooter, are beginning to trickle out. He was discharged from the Navy Reserve in January 2011, the year after he was arrested for firing a bullet into his neighbor's apartment. Alexis was scheduled to start working at the Navy Yard this month. There's still no word about any motive. The [Associated Press](#) reported on Tuesday morning that Alexis had been suffering from mental health issues and had been hearing voices, but we haven't confirmed that.

Mark Berman

*September 17, 9:24 am*

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### **[Gray: Sequester may have played a role](#)**

D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray suggested today that the cuts made by sequestration may have hampered the response to the Navy Yard shootings.

“It’s hard to know (what could have prevented it),” Gray said on CNN. “We’re continuing this investigation. But certainly, as I look at for example sequestration, which is about saving money in the federal government being spent, that we somehow skimmed on what would be available for projects like this, and then we put people at risk. Obviously 12 people have paid the ultimate price for whatever — you know, whatever was done to have this man on the base.”

Gray said the the Navy Yard is a very secure military installation and that suspected gunman Aaron Alexis, who reports indicate had been arrested and has a history of mental illness, shouldn't have been allowed access.

“It really is hard to believe that someone with a record as checkered as this man could conceivably get clearance, could get credentials, to be able to get on the base,” Gray said. “I just met with the commandant of the Washington Navy Yard last week. We were talking about the security, and we know this is one of the most secure facilities in the nation. So how this could happen is beyond belief.”

Watch the interview here:

Aaron Blake

*September 17, 9:50 am*

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## [Scared to return to Navy Yard area](#)

Etagegne Wolde, 48, of the District, was scared to come to work Tuesday. She spent all day Monday hiding inside the house near the Navy Yard where she works as a home health aide, listening to helicopters, police cars and ambulances, crying. Her patient was frightened and in tears, too.

Wolde, who moved here from Ethiopia eight years ago, couldn't believe such violence could happen in the United States.

"This country is nice. The people are nice. I don't know why people do these bad things," she said. "In the capital of America!" She pulled her thin coat tighter around her throat against a morning chill.

She didn't want to come to work Tuesday.

"I'm scared. I'm thinking more happen, more? I'm scared. I'm scared," she said.

But, like so many who steeled themselves to go back to the Navy Yard despite the memories and the sorrow Tuesday, she had to work. So she prayed.

"God, please, no bad things more. You save us," she said. She smiled, with sad eyes. "I prayed for me, for everybody."

Susan Svrluga

*September 17, 9:54 am*

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## [What to tell kids about the shootings](#)

The little grid of row houses that make up the residential area next to the Navy Yard seemed quiet, if back to normal this morning. Road closures were lifted, kids were at corner parks, on-foot city workers were cleaning trash. The only crowded spot was the huge media scrum still set up at M and 3rd streets SE, blocking the sidewalk for pedestrians heading to work.

Justin Steele was outside in the sunshine fixing his bike, trying to decide if he should tell his 4-year-old daughter why she and her two younger siblings weren't allowed outside yesterday. They live a couple of blocks from the Navy Yard. He told her about Assad and Syria this summer, and she was terrified. He tried to tell her the "bad man" was across the ocean, far away.

"Especially since it's right here," Steele said. He thought she would be scared. Some neighbors work at the Navy Yard, including one who escaped from the floor where the shooting occurred.

In the end, Steele said, he told his daughter, who had been playing in bare feet and urging her Dad to focus on her.

“I don’t like to keep things from her. She’s okay. She’s trying to wrap her head around why someone would do that. She had to count to 12 to understand how many people that is,” she said.

Michelle Boorstein

*September 17, 10:01 am*

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Craig Whitlock

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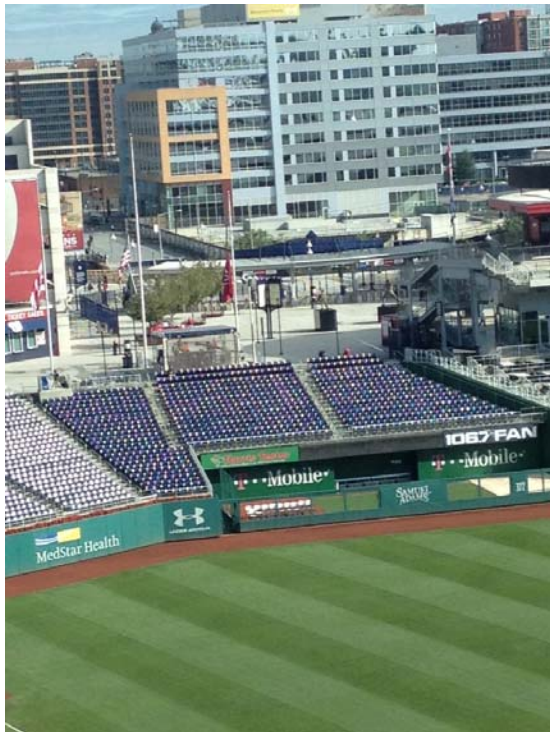
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## [Flags at Nationals field remain at half-staff](#)

Nearly 24 hours after the Navy Yard shootings nearby, Nationals Park prepared for [a normal day of work](#).

On Monday, N Street was filled with police cars and buses. Families and Navy Yard employees used Lot B in left field as a meeting point. By Tuesday morning, the street was empty. Grounds people raked the infield. Bullpen coach Jim Lett carried a bag of balls to the bullpen.

There was one reminder of the tragic incident the day before: as they were Monday afternoon, the flags in left field remained at half-staff.



(Photo by James Wagner/The Washington Post)

James Wagner

*September 17, 10:05 am*

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## [Hagel honors victims at Navy Memorial](#)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel attended a ceremony at the Navy Memorial honoring the victims of Monday's shooting.

The [memorial](#) is located on Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington, just over two miles away from the Navy Yard. A wreath was placed near the symbolic statue of the Lone Sailor, a sculpture representing all of the people who have served in the Navy or other sea services.

Mark Berman

*September 17, 10:16 am*

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### **School lockdown impacted parents, too**

Numerous schools in the District were placed on lockdown Monday — but in at least one school near the shooting site, [parents wound up on lockdown](#), too.

A note this morning from Principal Mitchell Brunson to parents at Tyler Elementary, located on Capitol Hill about 3/4 mile away from the Navy Yard, said “several dozen” parents were dropping their children off at school when the lockdown order came. These parents ended up staying at the school all day helping with classes.

The message from Brunson also included advice for talking to children about the events.

“Finally, while many of our children will likely return to their normal routines today, I encourage you to keep your eyes open for any changes in your child in the coming days or weeks,” the note said. “Changes in behavior, demeanor, etc. may signal that your child is struggling to cope with the news of yesterday’s tragedy. “

Michelle Boorstein

*September 17, 10:28 am*

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### **Bustling scene at the Yard waterfront**

The sound of construction trucks beeping, cranes swinging overhead and hammers slamming filled the air around the Navy Yard Tuesday morning as huge construction sites adjacent the Yard kicked back into normal life.

The Yard sits on the Anacostia waterfront, a newly refurbished boardwalk where joggers trotted along, and workers taking smoke breaks walked or sat in the sun.

“I admit I was looking nervously at your backpack,” one DOT employee who wouldn’t give his name half-joked.

Thousands of workers were back at their federal jobs in the big office buildings next to the gated Navy Yard.

“We’re just talking a lot about how he could have been out here with us sometime,” the employee said. “It’s scary.”

Michelle Boorstein

*September 17, 10:43 am*

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### **Video: Revamping military base security**

In the wake of Monday’s shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, The Post’s Pentagon Correspondent Ernesto Londoño speaks with us about how the military will need to reassess its security protocols. (The Fold/The Washington Post)

Phoebe Connelly

*September 17, 10:44 am*

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### **[A blue-and-gold day at Nats Park](#)**

At 1 p.m., baseball will return to Nationals Park when the Nationals play the first game of a doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves.

There’s a budding movement for fans to wear blue and gold, the Navy’s colors, and Nats broadcaster F.P. Santangelo has his wardrobe picked out.

Admittedly, though, a baseball game can only do so much in the face of such terrible loss.

This morning, Admiral James A. Winnefeld, vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited the Nationals’ clubhouse to distribute Navy caps for players to wear during batting practice, the Post’s James Wagner reports.

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