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REVEALED: San Bernardino terrorist Syed Farook 'had contact with Syrian al Qaeda-affiliated group AND al Shabaab in Somalia' before planting bombs and gunning down 14 people with his marriage website Pakistani bride

- **WARNING: GRAPHIC IMAGE**
- Syed Farook had contacted two terror groups before killing 14 people in California on Wednesday, it has been reported
- Farook contacted Al Nusra Front, an Al Qaeda-affiliated group in Syria and al Shabaab in Somalia, according to an unnamed police officer
- Comes after lawyers for Farook family denied attacks were terror related
- Yesterday a picture emerged showing body of Farook, 28, in the street
- Farook and his Pakistani-born wife were killed hours after opening fire on a party attended by his coworkers
- The photo shows the gunman lying face down in the street with his arms held behind his back in handcuffs and a pool of blood nearby
- He wears black tactical gear with pockets to store additional weapons and ammunition
- While the motive is still uncertain, it has been revealed that Farook's wife Tashfeen Malik, 27, may have become radicalized in her Islamic faith

By [Chris Pleasance](#) and [Ashley Collman](#) and [Snejana Farberov For Dailymail.com](#) and [Associated Press](#)

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San Bernardino gunman Syed Farook contacted at least two Islamic terror organizations overseas before shooting 14 people dead along with wife Tashfeen Malik, it has been reported.

Farook allegedly had 'some kind' of contact with Al Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda backed group in Syria, and al Shabaab in Somalia, according to an unnamed police source who spoke to the LA Times.

However, it is unclear what kind of contact took place, who Farook spoke to within the organizations and exactly what was said, the publication reported.

The news comes after a press conference on Friday in which lawyers for Farook's family repeatedly denied that Wednesday's attacks had anything to do with terrorism or Islam.

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California killer Syed Farook (pictured after being killed by police) contacted two terrorist organizations before shooting 14 people dead on Wednesday along with his wife, according to an unnamed law enforcement source

Al Shabaab commands up to 9,000 troops across Somalia and is dedicated to overthrowing the country's government before imposing strict Sharia law.

It also carries out attacks aimed at destabilizing the surrounding region, including the Kenyan mall attack which killed 68 and wounded almost 200 in 2013, and the attack on Garissa University which killed 175 students earlier this year.

Meanwhile Al Nusra operates as Al Qaeda's representatives in Syria, carrying out bombings in Damascus and Aleppo against Bashar Al Assad, before capturing the city of Idlib in March.

While they were initially set up as a precursor organization to ISIS, the two groups are now ideologically opposed.

It also comes after a picture surfaced showing the body Farook following the shootings, with his hands handcuffed behind his back and lying in a pool of his own blood.

The 28-year-old health department worker was killed in a shootout with police, hours after he and his radicalized Muslim wife opened fire at an office party.

AL SHABAAB

Area of operations: Based in Somalia, but has carried out attacks in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia

Ideology: Born out of Taliban training camps in Afghanistan, the group aims to topple the Somali government and establish an emirate enforcing strict Sharia laws

Tactics: Using a mixture of IEDs, gunmen and suicide bombers, the group has attacked government workers, journalists, peace activists, and the general public to cause instability in the region

Strength: Between 7,000 and 9,000 fighters

Major attacks: In September 2013, gunmen from the group attacked the Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya, going floor to floor and executing shoppers where they found them. In total, 68 people died and 175 were wounded.

In April this year, more gunmen attacked Garissa University College, a military school in Kenya, asking students their religion before shooting non-Muslims dead. They killed 147 children before armed forces stopped them

Source: Stanford University

AL NUSRA FRONT

Area of operations: Originally a major player in Syria, the group is now based in Idlib province having withdrawn from other cities due to ISIS presence

Ideology: Established by now-ISIS spiritual leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi when he was part of Al Qaeda, they aim to depose President Bashar Al Assad and establish an Islamic government adhering to Sharia law. They are opposed to ISIS

Tactics: Initially making use of car and suicide bombs to target Assad's forces, while also incurring civilian

casualties, they now operate as a more conventional military force, making use of ground troops to capture territory and take down U.S.-backed rebels

Strength: Between 5,000 and 6,000 fighters

Major attacks: Between 2013 and 2014, Al Nusra carried out a series of suicide bombings against government targets, including one by Abu Huraira al-Amriki - a U.S. citizen, believed to be the first suicide attack by an American in Syria. In March, the group captured the city and province of Idlib

Source: Stanford University

The disturbing photo shows Farook, dressed in all black tactical gear, lying face down on a paved road, and a pool of blood below and to the right of his head. His arms are held behind his back with a pair of handcuffs.

The lower part of Farook's face is not visible, so it's hard to see the beard family members say he had been growing out.

The black tactical gear that Farook is wearing shows pockets and straps to store additional weapons and ammunition. Reports say the couple also wore GoPro cameras on their heads, to possibly record the bloodbath.

Police said the couple had more than 1,600 bullets when they were killed by authorities, and that the shooters had nearly 3,000 rounds of ammunition at their home, as well as 12 pipe bombs and tools that could be used to make explosive devices.

While police say they still don't know what the motive for the attack was, it has since been revealed that Farook's wife, Tashfeen Malik, had become radicalized in her Islamic faith and that the FBI will be investigating the deadly incident as a possible 'act of terror'.

A Facebook executive said that the Pakistani-born woman posted a message on the website, praising Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State (aka ISIS or ISIL), during the attack.

She reportedly posted the material under an alias account at 11am. That was about the time the first 911 calls came in and when the couple were believed to have stormed into the San Bernardino social service center and opened fire.



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ISIS connection: It was revealed Friday that Tashfeen Malik (left), the wife and accomplice of San Bernardino shooter Syed Farook (right), pledged allegiance to the leader of ISIS on Facebook during or right before Wednesday' deadly attacks



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Evidence: An officer looks over the evidence near the remains of a SUV involved in the police shootout in San Bernardino, California



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Pool of blood: A large bloodstain in seen on the street where Farook and Malik was shot dead by police during a gun battle



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Weapons: The couple were armed with a .223-caliber DPMS Model A15 rifle, a Smith and Wesson M&P15 rifle as well as Llama handgun and a Smith and Wesson handgun (pictured)



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Ammo: An additional 1,400 rifle rounds were found inside the bullet-riddled vehicle the pair used to evade police on Wednesday. Police also recovered more than 2,000 handgun bullets

The executive spoke on condition of anonymity because this person was not allowed under corporate policy to be quoted by name.

The company discovered the Facebook account Thursday. It removed the profile from public view and reported its contents to law enforcement.

Another official speaking on condition of anonymity said Malik expressed 'admiration' for al-Baghdadi and said there was no sign that anyone affiliated with ISIS communicated back to her and no signs of any operational instructions being passed on to her.

According to Fox News, it is believed that on at least one of Farook's two trips to Saudi Arabia in 2013 and 2014, one or both of the spouses reached out to suspected members of al Qaeda.

The ISIS-affiliated news agency Amaq has also come out to say that the two shooters were 'supporters' of the caliphate, but stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attack.

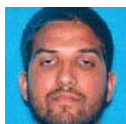
David Bowdich, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles office, said he wasn't aware of the report but wasn't surprised ISIS would attempt to link itself to the attack.

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He said investigators are looking carefully to determine if there is an ISIS connection.

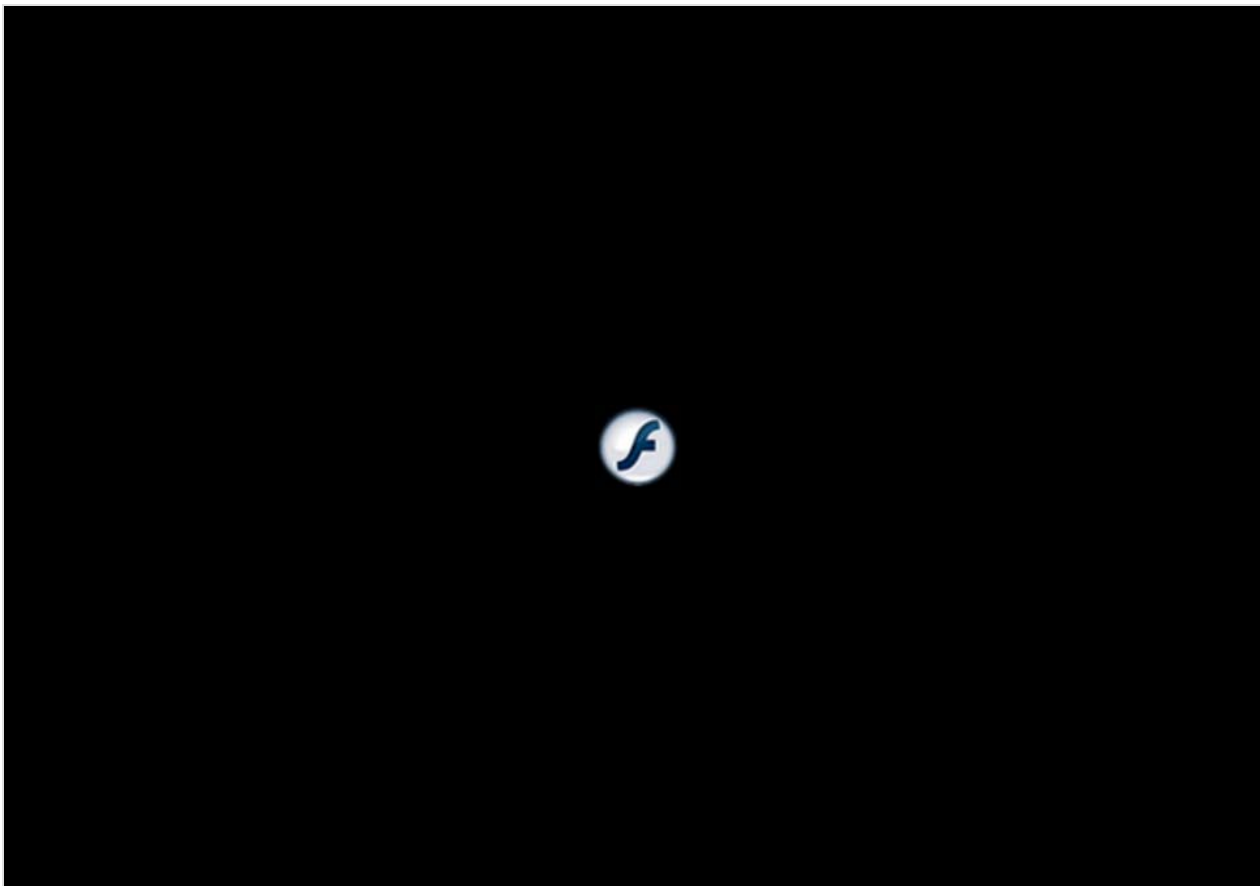
Malik, 27, was a Pakistani who grew up in Saudi Arabia and came to the U.S. in 2014 on a fiancée visa. Farook, a 28-year-old restaurant health inspector for the county, was born in Chicago to Pakistani parents and raised in Southern California.

Malik returned to Pakistan five or six years ago to complete a degree from Bahauddin Zakariya University in Multan.

An online transcript from Bahauddin Zakariya University uncovered by Daily Mail Online on Friday shows Malik scored 74.88 out of 100 on one of her pharmacy exams.

One of Malik's uncles, Javed Rabbani, said Malik's father, Gulzar, changed while the family was living in Saudi Arabia.

'When relatives visited him, they would come back and tell us how conservative and hard-line he had become,' Rabbani said in an interview with Reuters.



It was not immediately clear whether Malik exhibited any support for radical Islamists before she arrived in the U.S. - or, like scores of others arrested by the FBI, became radicalized through online or in-person associations after arriving.

To receive her visa, Malik was subjected to a vetting process the U.S. government describes as vigorous. It includes in-person interviews, fingerprints, checks against terrorist watch lists and reviews of her family members, travel history and places where she lived and worked.

Foreigners applying from countries that are home to Islamic extremists - such as Pakistan - undergo additional scrutiny before the State Department and Homeland Security approve their applications.

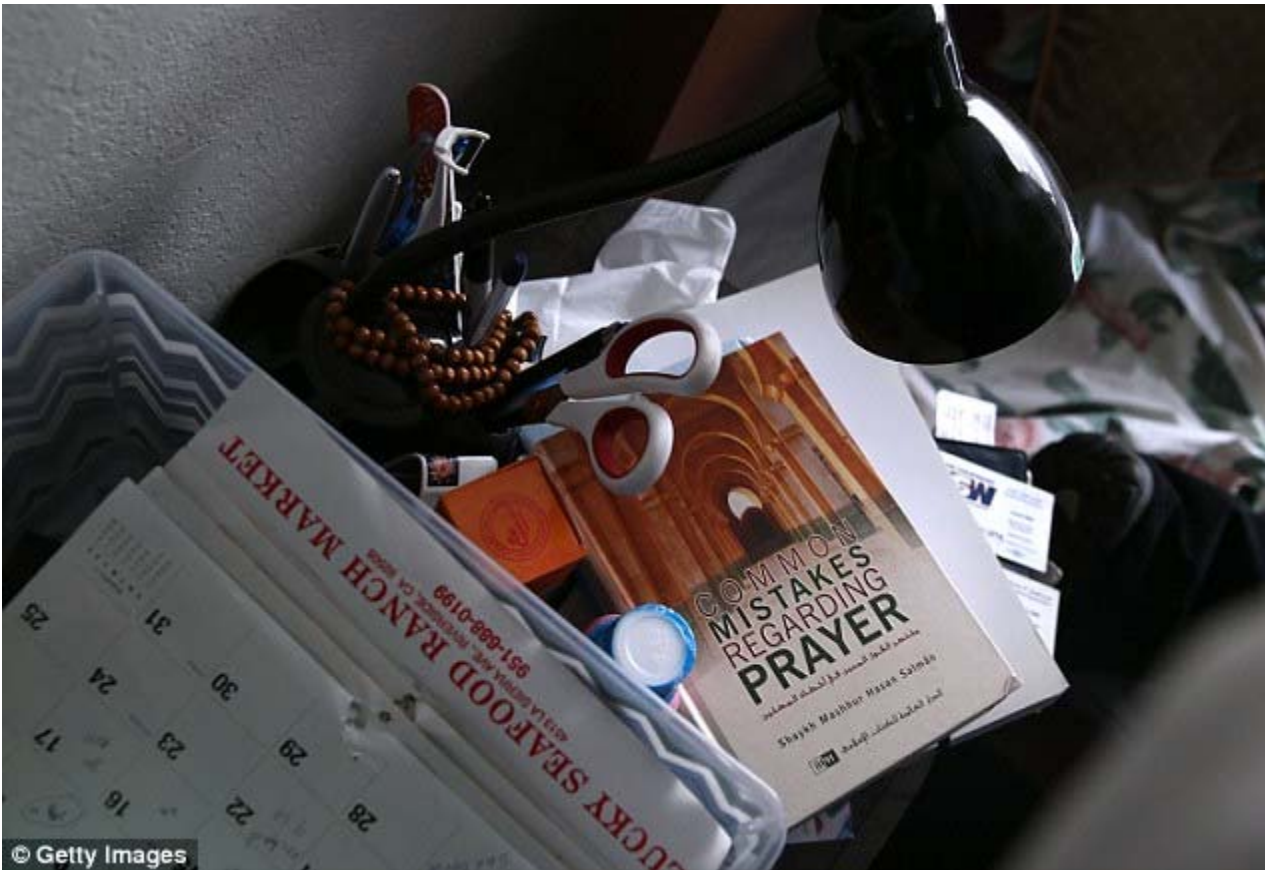


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Pledge of allegiance: Malik reportedly left a post on an account under a different name aligning herself with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (pictured)



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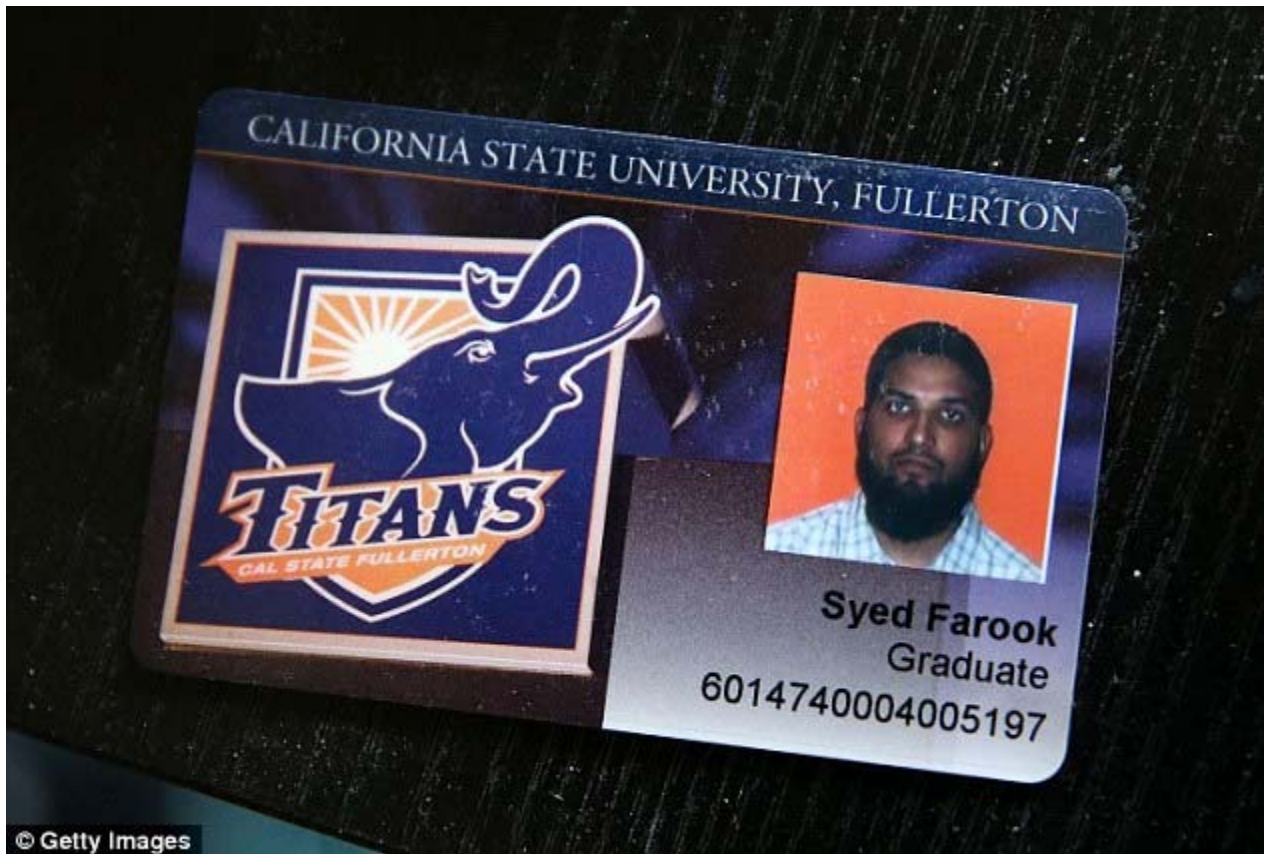
Fervent: A book on prayer is seen inside the home. Syed Rizwani Farook had previously been described as a 'devout' Muslim, but is claimed to have developed ties with radicals and stopped attending his mosque



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Everyday items: Toothbrushes in a cup, a container of pills and children's toys rest in the sink in the cluttered bathroom



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Suspect: A university ID shows Syed Rizwan Farook with a fuller beard than in his driving license photo. There are claims that his wife radicalized him after he married her in Saudi Arabia and brought her to the US

Pakistani intelligence officials said Malik moved as a child with her family to Saudi Arabia 25 years ago.

The two officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said that the family is originally from a town in Punjab province and that the father initially moved to Saudi Arabia around three decades ago for work.

Farook had no criminal record and was not under scrutiny by local or federal law enforcement before the attack, authorities said. Friends knew him by his quick smile, his devotion to Islam and his talk about restoring cars.

They didn't know he was busy with his wife building pipe bombs and stockpiling thousands of rounds of ammunition for the commando-style assault Wednesday on a gathering of Farook's colleagues from San Bernardino County's health department.

'This was a person who was successful, who had a good job, a good income, a wife and a family. What was he missing in his life?' asked Nizaam Ali, who worshipped with Farook at a mosque in San Bernardino.

The soft-spoken Farook was known to pray every day at San Bernardino's Dar Al Uloom Al Islamiyah mosque. That is where Nizaam Ali and his brother Rahemaan Ali met Farook.

The last time Rahemaan Ali saw his friend was three weeks ago, when Farook abruptly stopped coming to pray. Rahemaan Ali said Farook seemed happy and his usual self. Both brothers said they never saw anything to

make them think Farook was violent.

They said Farook reported meeting his future wife online.

David Chesley, an attorney representing Farook's family, insisted there was 'no smoking gun' to suggest a motive but added: 'Both the sisters and the brothers as they went through the information today, there was one silly thing that came up - that some of his co-workers at some point made remarks about his beard.

'But it's so slight and no-one has ever stated that he has ever acted in a hostile or a violent way towards anyone. They were a very polite, conservative, married couple.' His colleague and fellow attorney, Mohammad Abuershaid, added: 'There is no indication that he was involved with anybody physically.

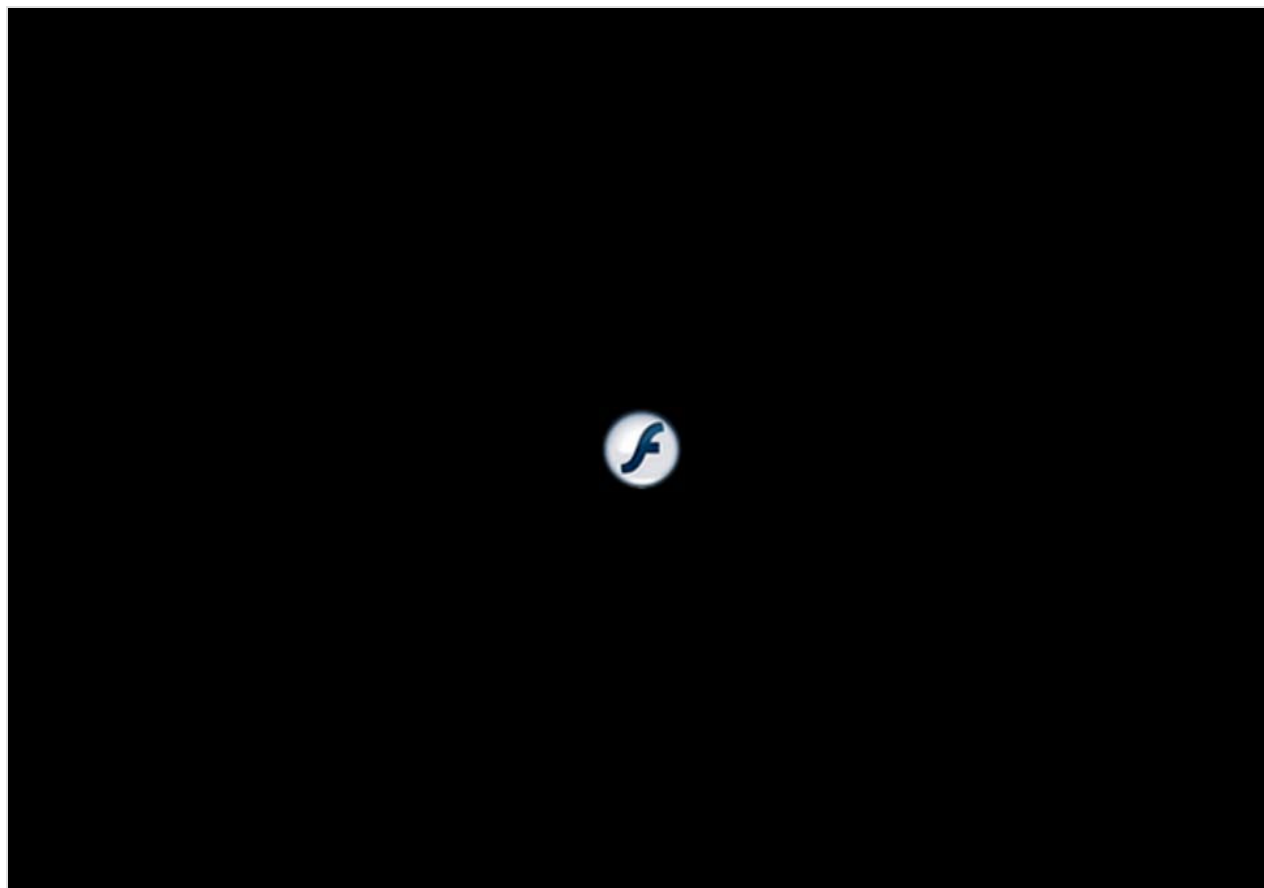
'All we know is that there was a couple of situations with people who might have teased him about his facial hair.

'There's no indication he had a short temper. It was people just teasing him about his facial hair and how he looked. He had a long beard and a very short trimmed haircut.

'It was just basic comments but he used to brush them off pretty easily. The family is in shock just as we are. They had no idea something like this would happen.'

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Also on Friday, the public got to see inside the apartment where Farook and his wife were living with their six-month-old daughter, when the couple's landlord bizarrely opened the residence to media - revealing scores of family trinkets and toys that would have sat among boxes of ammunition and pipe bombs as they planned their attack.

Malik and Farook's home is also filled with family photographs, Korans and other books on Islam but appears to

have the appearance of a normal suburban family home.

Among the photos are a series of young women and a California State University identity card belonging to Farook.

Journalists were apparently let into the home after investigators had collected all the evidence they needed, although some have still criticized authorities for opening the crime scene so soon.

FBI agents have been combing through cellphones and a computer hard drive left behind by the couple in their Redlands, California, rental home to try to establish a motive for the killings.

During the media tour of Malik and Farook's town home Friday morning, an MSNBC reporter found a white wooden crib filled with baby clothes, toys, a child's book of the Quran, piles of family pictures and shredded documents. There was a computer monitor, but no hard drive.

In an afternoon press conference, local authorities said they would be turning the investigation over to the FBI.

David Bowdich, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles office, says the agency is officially investigating the shooting as an 'act of terrorism'.

He also said the shooters attempted to destroy evidence, including crushing two cellphones and discarding them in a trash can.

He said authorities continue to investigate the case to understand the motivations of the shooters and whether they were planning more attacks.

Authorities are also looking to speak with the man who bought two of the semi-automatic weapons used in the shooting.

They say the two .223-caliber assault rifles were purchased by the same man in 2011 and 2012 - each time shortly after Farook bought each of the handguns used in the shootings.

Authorities say it's still unclear whether the gun purchases were coordinated, or how Farook came into possession of the two larger weapons he and his wife used to open fire on his co-workers at an office party.

Investigators also say that it appears one of the weapons was modified in an attempt to make it fully automatic.



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[up](#), Houston, United States, about 5 hours ago

od to publish the picture of the actual reward for these acts.

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[igitime](#), ny, United States, about 6 hours ago

ny ignorant comments. It is standard procedure. The event isn't over until the bad guy is in cuffs.

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[Mullen](#), Catawba, United States, about 6 hours ago

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Minneapolis, United States, about 7 hours ago

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icture we need more of these!

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a good look for him.

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Toronto, Canada, about 8 hours ago

ing at the people who feel sorry for this mass murderer. They kill 14 people and people worry about handcuffs? Guy and his wife deserve what they got.

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oor daughter! My heart breaks for that innocent baby girl. Imagine knowing what animals your parents had become?

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Gray, Pattaya Thailand, about 5 hours ago

Rejoice at the fact that hopefully, she will now have a better upbringing.

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