

# Official: Feds search home for link to gun in Texas shooting

JAKE BLEIBERG & PAUL J. WEBER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS (AP) — Investigators looking for how a Texas gunman obtained an assault-style rifle used in a Labor Day weekend rampage despite failing a background check have searched the home of a man they believe was involved in the "transfer" of the weapon, a federal law enforcement official said Thursday.

The official familiar with the investigation spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, citing a reluctance to publicly discuss the details of the search. The official said federal agents are investigating whether the Lubbock man has been manufacturing firearms but that there have been no arrests.

Spokespeople for the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives confirmed the agencies conducted "law enforcement operations" Wednesday

in a residential part of Lubbock but declined to elaborate.

Seven people were killed and around two dozen were injured in the shooting that spanned for more than an hour from Midland to Odessa, about 140 miles (225 kilometers) south of Lubbock.

Officers killed 36-year-old Seth Aaron Ator on Saturday outside a busy Odessa movie theater after a spate of violence that spanned 10 miles (16 kilometers). He fired indiscriminately from his car into passing vehicles and shopping plazas, and at one point hijacked a U.S. Postal Service mail truck, killing the driver.

Ator failed a federal firearms background check in 2014 due to a "mental health" issue but used a private sale to obtain the weapon used in last weekend's attack, a law enforcement official told AP Tuesday.

Private gun sales in the United States are not subject to federal background checks and, accord-

ing to some estimates, may account for 25 to 40 percent of all gun sales. It is illegal for a person to sell a gun to someone he or she knows cannot legally purchase one. But private sellers, unlike licensed dealers, are not required to find out if a would-be buyer can possess a firearm or conduct a background check.

While American's are allowed to make their own firearms, they cannot do so commercially. It is illegal to make and sell guns as a business without being a licensed dealer or manufacturer.

The Odessa mass shooting and another at a Walmart in El Paso just weeks earlier bookended a violent August in Texas that left 29 people dead and injured dozens more. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Thursday issued eight executive orders that he said would help prevent other mass shootings. None of them put new restrictions on access to firearms or ammunition,

which are at the forefront of calls by Democrats and gun-control groups in the wake of the two Texas shootings.

Topping Abbott's list of orders is one that establishes a list of questions for law enforcement agencies to ask when receiving calls about people who might pose a threat. The mother of the suspected El Paso gunman called police weeks before the Aug. 3 attack to express concern about her son buying an "AK" style rifle.

Ator was "recently reported to law enforcement for confronting a neighbor while brandishing a semiautomatic rifle," the orders state. It is unclear what came of this report or to whom it was made.

Abbott's office referred questions about the incident to the Texas Department of Public Safety. A department spokeswoman and Ector County Sheriff Mike Griffis did not immediately respond to a request for

comment Thursday.

Rocio Gutierrez, whose home is near Ator's sheet-metal shack west of Odessa in Ector County, said her family often heard him shooting in the night. Ator had menaced another neighbor over how that woman was disposing of trash, Gutierrez told the AP Monday.

Abbott on Wednesday rejected calls from Democrats who want him to haul lawmakers back to the Texas Capitol and begin taking votes on new gun control measures. The Texas Legislature doesn't meet again until 2021, meaning any new laws in response to the Odessa and El Paso shootings are at least two years away unless the governor calls an emergency legislative session.

Abbott, an avid gun-rights supporter, has shown no appetite for a special session but says he will release legislative proposals in the coming days.

## NASA FROM PG. 1

event for students interested in engineering, history, political science, communications, and computer sciences.

"Dr. Abbey's talk will focus on how the United States achieved the first moon landing in history, 50 years ago on July 16, 1969," the LBJ Museum said in a press release.

During the Apollo 11 mission, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed their lunar module and walked on the lunar surface, while Michael Collins remained in lunar orbit in the command and service module.

All three landed safely on Earth on July 24, 1969. Five subsequent Apollo missions also landed astronauts on the Moon, the last in December 1972. In these six spaceflights, 12 men walked on the Moon.

George William Samuel Abbey was born in Seattle, Washington on Aug. 21, 1932. He earned his bachelor's degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1954 and his master's degree in electrical engineering from the United States Air

Force Institute of Technology in 1959.

As a pilot in the USAF, Abbey flew more than 4,500 hours in different types of aircraft. He also served in the USAF Research and Development Command where he was an important part of the early air force manned space initiatives, including the Dyna-Soar Program. Abbey joined NASA in 1964 as an Air Force captain and was assigned to the Apollo program.

In December 1967, Abbey was named the technical assistant to the Johnson Space Center Director and resigned his Air Force commission. Abbey's expertise was crucial to the success of the Apollo program, notably Apollo 8 and Apollo 11.

In January 1976, Abbey was named director of flight operations. In this position, Abbey was responsible for the management of flight crews and flight control activities for all human space missions. His work was crucial to the development of the space shuttle program.

In 1985, Abbey was appointed director of the flight

crew operations directorate. In this post, Abbey was a strong advocate of human space flight and was responsible for all space shuttle flight crews and JSC aircraft operations, including putting Sally Ride, first woman in space, on the crew of 1983's STS-7.

In March 1988, Abbey was appointed deputy associate administrator for Space Flight at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. In July 1990, he was picked as deputy for operations and senior NASA representative to the Synthesis Group that was charged with developing strategies for new moon expeditions and a landing on Mars.

In July 1991, he was appointed senior director for civil space policy for the National Space Council (lodged in the Executive Office of the President). Abbey was instrumental in U.S. astronauts being able to work in Russia's MIR orbital space station. This enabled U.S. astronauts to acquire experience in space station operations that they could not have achieved in any other

way.

In 1992, Abbey was selected to be special assistant to NASA Director Daniel S. Goldin. In 1994, Abbey was named deputy director of the JSC and was made director in 1996, serving until 2001. As director, Abbey was an integral part of the NSAS-MIR program and provided critical oversight during the first phase of the International Space Station. Dr. Abbey has achieved numerous awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus of U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology; three NASA awards: Exceptional Service Medal, Outstanding Leadership Medal, and three Distinguished Service Medals; the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement; two Presidential Rank Awards for his contributions as a member of the government's Senior Executive Service; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1970.

• Submitted by LBJ Museum

## Texas lawman indicted after 4-year-old stepson shoots self

HOUSTON (AP) — Prosecutors say a grand jury has indicted a Texas sheriff's sergeant after his young stepson shot and injured himself last year with a weapon the deputy had left in an unlocked gun safe.

Authorities announced Thursday that Harris County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Tommy Anderson faces a charge of making a firearm accessi-

ble to a child.

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg says Anderson was on a walk with his daughter in July 2018 when his then 4-year-old stepson found his handgun at their home in Hockley, located northwest of Houston, and accidentally shot himself in the head.

SEE LAWMAN PAGE 3

## COLLISION FROM PG. 1

SMPD said there were no critical injuries. Multiple intersections, including CM

Allen Parkway and Hopkins Street were blocked for a long period of time.

As of press time Thursday, few details had emerged. For more information on

the auto/train collision visit [sanmarcosrecord.com](http://sanmarcosrecord.com).

## SMPD Blotter

Sept 4

- 7:04 a.m. - Directed/Area Enforcement, 333 S. Stagecoach Trl., warning.
- 7:42 a.m. - Accident - minor, W. Wonder World Dr./Purgatory Creek, blue form.
- 9:44 a.m. - Burglary of Vehicle, 4300 S. I-35, report.
- 11:58 a.m. - Investigation, 301 Fox-tail Run, citation.
- 12:14 p.m. - Violation of City Ordinance, 215 W. MLK Dr., citation.
- 12:17 p.m. - Investigation, 121 E. DeZavala Dr., report.
- 1:17 p.m. - Violation of City Ordinance, 215 W. MLK Dr., citation.
- 1:31 p.m. - Accident - unknown, S. I-35 Exit 202, blue form.
- 2:38 p.m. - Warrant Arrest, 202

- Porter St., Solis, David Louis, 50, arrested.
- 3:25 p.m. - Accident - minor, Hwy 21/N. Old Bastrop Hwy, referral.
- 4:05 p.m. - Mental Health Invest, 2601 Rattler Rd., report.
- 4:09 p.m. - Theft, 501 E. Hopkins St., referral.
- 4:15 p.m. - Burglary of Habitation, 105 Casita Cv., report.
- 4:26 p.m. - Investigation, 500 blk Cheatham St., citation.
- 5:12 p.m. - Warrant Arrest, 1600 N. I-35, Schmidt, Vanessa Renee, 42, arrested.
- 6:53 p.m. - Harassment, 2300 S. I-35, referral.
- 8:35 p.m. - Accident - minor, Broadway St./Staples Rd., blue form.
- 8:50 p.m. - Theft, 641 E. Hopkins St., Detention Juvenile.

- 9:03 p.m. - Suspicious Vehicle, 700 blk Yarrington Rd., report.
- 9:35 p.m. - Warrant Arrest, 2103 River Rd., Gonzales, Jon-Eric, 28, arrested.
- 9:39 p.m. - Noise Disturbance, 650 River Rd., warning.
- 9:56 p.m. - Accident - minor, N. Bishop St./Craddock Ave., report.
- Sept. 5
- 12:56 a.m. - Attempt to Locate, N. I-35 Exit 198, warning.
- 1:04 a.m. - Harassment, 115 North Fork Rd., report.
- 1:40 a.m. - Verbal Disturbance, 1301 Wonder World Dr., warning.
- 6:06 a.m. - Accident - major/injury, 1301 Wonder World Dr., report.
- 6:48 a.m. - Burglary of Vehicle, 1811 Medical Pkwy., report.

• compiled by Jordan Burnham

**San Marcos Daily Record**

**4 DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
High - 100° Low - 74° Rain - 0%	High - 99° Low - 72° Rain - 0%	High - 99° Low - 73° Rain - 0%	High - 96° Low - 73° Rain - 30%

weather.gov

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