

Nation & World Report

3 killed after gunman opens fire at restaurant

Labeling Distraction



The New York Times and The Associated Press

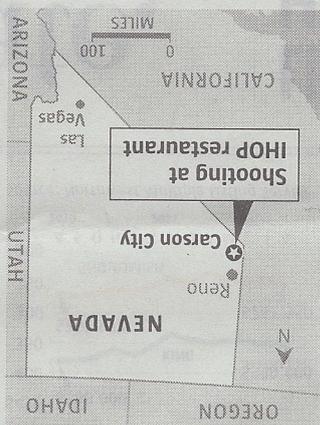
A man armed with an AK-47 assault rifle opened fire Tuesday morning on a group of five uniformed National Guard members as they ate breakfast at a restaurant in Carson City, Nev., killing two and wounding three. A woman was also fatally shot and six others wounded, including one woman outside the restaurant, before the shooter took his own life. The gunman, identified by police as Eduardo Sencion, 32, began his five-minute shooting spree around 9 a.m. as people flocked to the restaurant for the breakfast rush.

Family members said he had mental issues. He had never been in the military and had no known affiliation with anyone inside the restaurant.

The Carson City sheriff, Ken Furlong, said the authorities had not yet established a motive. However, he did seek out the National Guard members, at least once he was inside the restaurant. Five of the 11 people shot were in uniform, and one of the wounded civilians was caught in the line of fire between Sencion and the Guardsmen.

"It appears as though his gunfire was primarily focused on those military members," Furlong said. "We do not know whether the gunman was aware that there were National Guardsmen in the restaurant, but it appears as though he did. He had to travel through the entire restaurant to get to the back where the Guardsmen were having breakfast."

Furlong said the authorities were investigating Sencion's mental-health history.



Sources: CNN, Reuters
MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

members inside. Another assault rifle and a handgun were found inside the blue minivan Sencion parked outside the restaurant. Law-enforcement authorities did not speculate on a motive for the attack, nor on whether the National Guard members seemed to have been particularly targeted.

Sencion was born in Mexico, had a valid U.S. passport

CATHLEEN ALLISON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While six others were transported to hospitals, where at least five remained in surgery Tuesday afternoon, according to the Carson City Sheriff's Department.

Sencion, a Carson City resident, was also transported to a hospital, where he later died.

Ralph Swagler, the owner of a nearby barbecue restaurant, told the AP that he saw the gunman pull up outside the restaurant, where he first shot a woman by a motorcycle and then headed inside.

The shootings shocked a city just emerging from a long holiday weekend when many locals and tourists flocked to nearby Lake Tahoe.

Carson City has less of the gritz — and grime — associated with Las Vegas or Reno, the latter of which is 25 miles to the north.

It has steadily grown over the years, but it is still sleepier than Reno, which was hit hard by the recession's impact on construction and ca-

With bullet holes seen in a window, officers in Carson City, Nev., look for evidence at the scene of a restaurant shooting. The gunman began his five-minute shooting spree as people flocked to the restaurant for breakfast.

the area and sent victims to the hospital by ground ambulance and helicopter. The State Capitol and Supreme Court buildings were briefly locked down, as authorities feared more violence. But Freer said the shooting appeared to be an isolated incident.

Fran Hunter, who works at a nearby pet store, watched the aftermath of the shooting from a casino parking lot across the street, where people had gathered to observe the common.

She said others who gathered in the parking lot said the gunman had sprayed bullets into other nearby businesses, breaking windows, before shooting a man on a motorcycle and entering the IHOP, although she did not see it herself.

"It wasn't a pretty scene," she said.